My Little Town Notes

Slide 1

Riverside is the neighborhood in Buffalo, NY where I was raised. It currently is serviced by the ZIP Code 14207 post office. Riverside and the adjacent neighborhood of Black Rock combine to form nearly all of ZIP Code 14207 today. This presentation presents a quasi-philatelic account of ZIP Code 14207 and its antecedents. Key areas of focus include the evolution of the local geographic area, representative postmarks on cover of most of the post offices that serviced the area, key events in the history of the area and a sampling of philatelic activity in the area.

Slide 2

The red lines delineate ZIP Code 14207 as well as the Riverside-Black Rock boundary.

Slide 3

The exterior of the ZIP Code 14207 Post Office in January 2014.

Slide 4

The interior of the ZIP Code 14207 Post Office in January 2014.

Slides 5–13

This and the following eight slides show county maps of then-current boundaries, outlined in black, overlaid on today's boundaries as published in the decennial Federal census.

Slide 14

In 1793 Robert Morris sold roughly 3.5 million acres of land to a Dutch syndicate known as the Holland Land Company. By 1836 the Holland Land Company had sold its entire holding.

Slide 15

When settlement of the Holland Land Company territory began a new county, Genesee, was formed on March 30,1802 with Batavia as its capital.

Slide 16–21

Self-Explanatory

Slide 22

A seminal event on the Niagara Frontier was construction of the Erie Canal. Buffalo and Black Rock, bitter rivals (other than when the area was under siege during the War of 1812 and in an effort to improve the local transportation network), competed for the opportunity to become the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Black Rock emerged as the early favorite because it had a suitable harbor created from a natural black rock outcrop situated on the Niagara River adjacent to what is now the Peace Bridge. Buffalo Creek, also a suitable site for a harbor, emptied into Lake Erie to the south of the black rock outcrop; however, a sandbar at its mouth prevented suitable navigation. Buffalo subsequently dredged the sandbar and the battle for the Erie Canal was on. Political heavyweights - Peter B. Porter for Black Rock and Joseph Ellicott & Paul Busti for Buffalo - took sides. The question of which town would be selected was in doubt until 1822 when Buffalo was selected, but the question wasn't finally settled until October 1823 when the state ordered the resumption of construction. It is my opinion that this event is why Black Rock is a part of Buffalo today and not the other way around.

Slide 23

Upper left: Canal Boat stamp First Day Covers depicting a canal boat drawn by a horse with man on the canal towpath

Lower Right: Map showing the principal canals in the northeast.

Slide 24

Upper Left: Black-Rock, N.Y. / June 9, 1826 / black 34×13mm double-lined box / FREE rate. Sent by J. Barton, P.M.

Lower Right: Upper Left: Black-Rock, NY / August 8, 1826 / black 34×13mm double-lined box / 56¼¢ rate / Sent by Donald Fraser Canal Collector.

Slide 25

Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / November 10, 1827 / black 34×12mm double-lined box / 18¾¢ rate / Sent by Love & Tracy.

Lower Right: Black Rock, N.Y. / June 11, 1831 / red 33×13mm double-lined box / FREE rate / Sent by E. H. Barnum, P.M.

Slide 26

Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / June 18, 1831 / red 33×13mm double-lined box / 12½¢ rate / Sent by Gibson, Johnson and Ehls.

Lower Right: Black-Rock, N.Y. / November 13, 1836 / black 30mm CDS / PAID 18¾¢ rate / Sent by W. A. Bird for [what appears to be] B. & N. F. R. R. Company.

My Little Town Notes

Slide 27

Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / December 23, 1848 / blue 30mm CDS / 10¢ rate / Sent by W. A. Bird.

Lower Right: manuscript Black Rock with (certified) pointy finger / June 16, 1833 / black 30mm CDS / 25¢ rate / Sent by Matilda Pratt.

Slide 28

Enlargement of manuscript Black Rock with (certified) pointy finger.

Slide 29–34

Self-Explanatory

Slide 35

Canadian and American First Day Covers commemorating 50th anniversary of the Peace Bridge, located approximately where the 17th Century boundary between Buffalo and Black Rock was drawn.

Slide 36-37

Self-Explanatory

Slide 38

These are interesting covers because their cancels bear the Station B postmark. The Pan-American Exposition, as was common practice for events like it, had its own postal station that Pan-American Exposition covers received. Station B shared a border with the exposition and, rather than posting the letters on the exposition grounds where they would have received the event cancellation, they were posted possibly a few steps away from the exposition grounds.

Slide 39–41

Self-Explanatory

Slide 42

This is an interesting cover because everything about it – including a "Station B" mark – suggests it originated in Buffalo, NY. But a closer look reveals that the cover originated in Atlanta, GA where Haas & Haas agents mailed it.

Slide 43–44

Self-Explanatory

Slide 45

Although this cover does not explicitly bear a 14207 postmark, I know it was mailed from that ZIP Code because it was sent to me from my aunt who was still residing in my childhood house.

Slide 46–48

Philatelic activity in ZIP Code 14207: this and the following four covers was issued by the Polish Cadets at POLKAPEX on March 7, 1987 in ZIP Code 14207.

Slide 49

Philatelic activity in ZIP Code 14207: these two covers were issued by the Polish Cadets at POLKAPEX on March 4, 1984 and March 2 1986 in ZIP Code 14207.

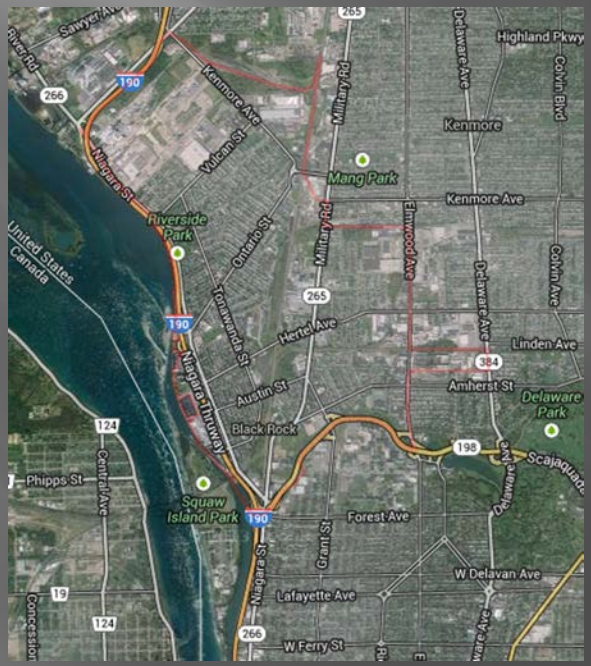
Slide 50

Self-Explanatory

My Little Town

Zip Code 14207

Riverside



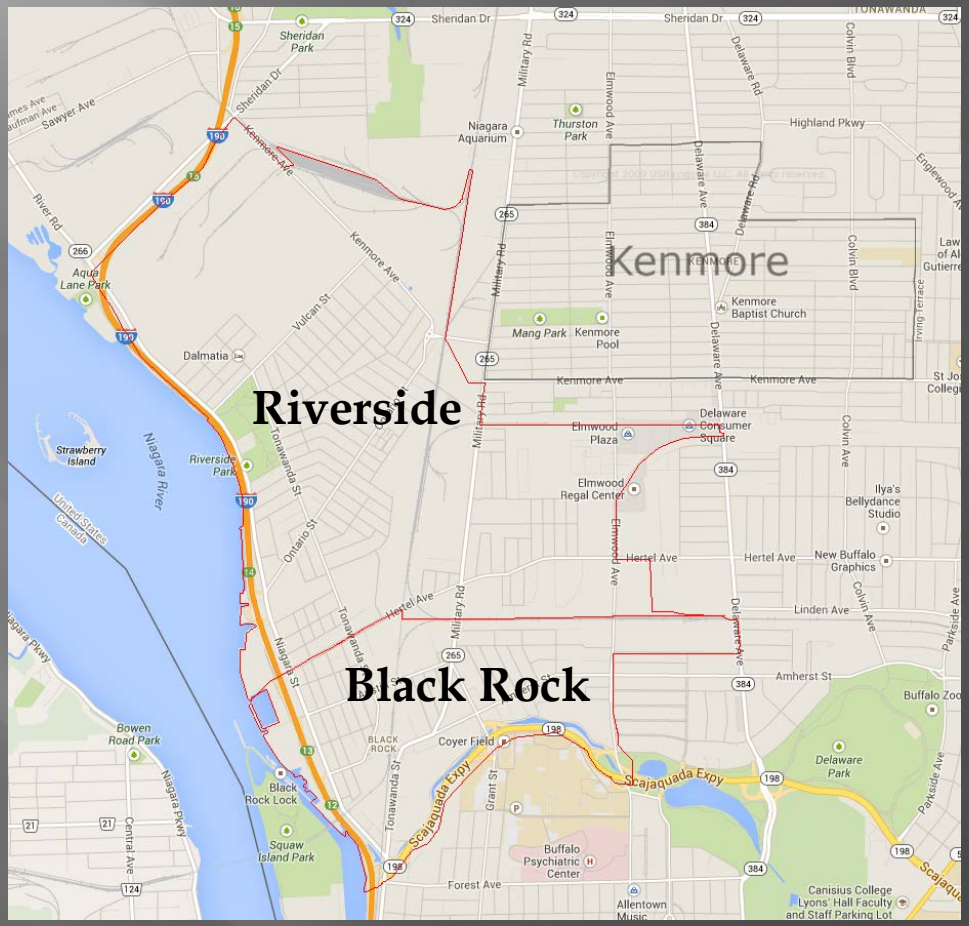
Black Rock

Rochester Philatelic Association • January 23, 2014

George T. Fekete

ZIP Code 14207

USPS Area Served



ZIP Code 14207

Post Office

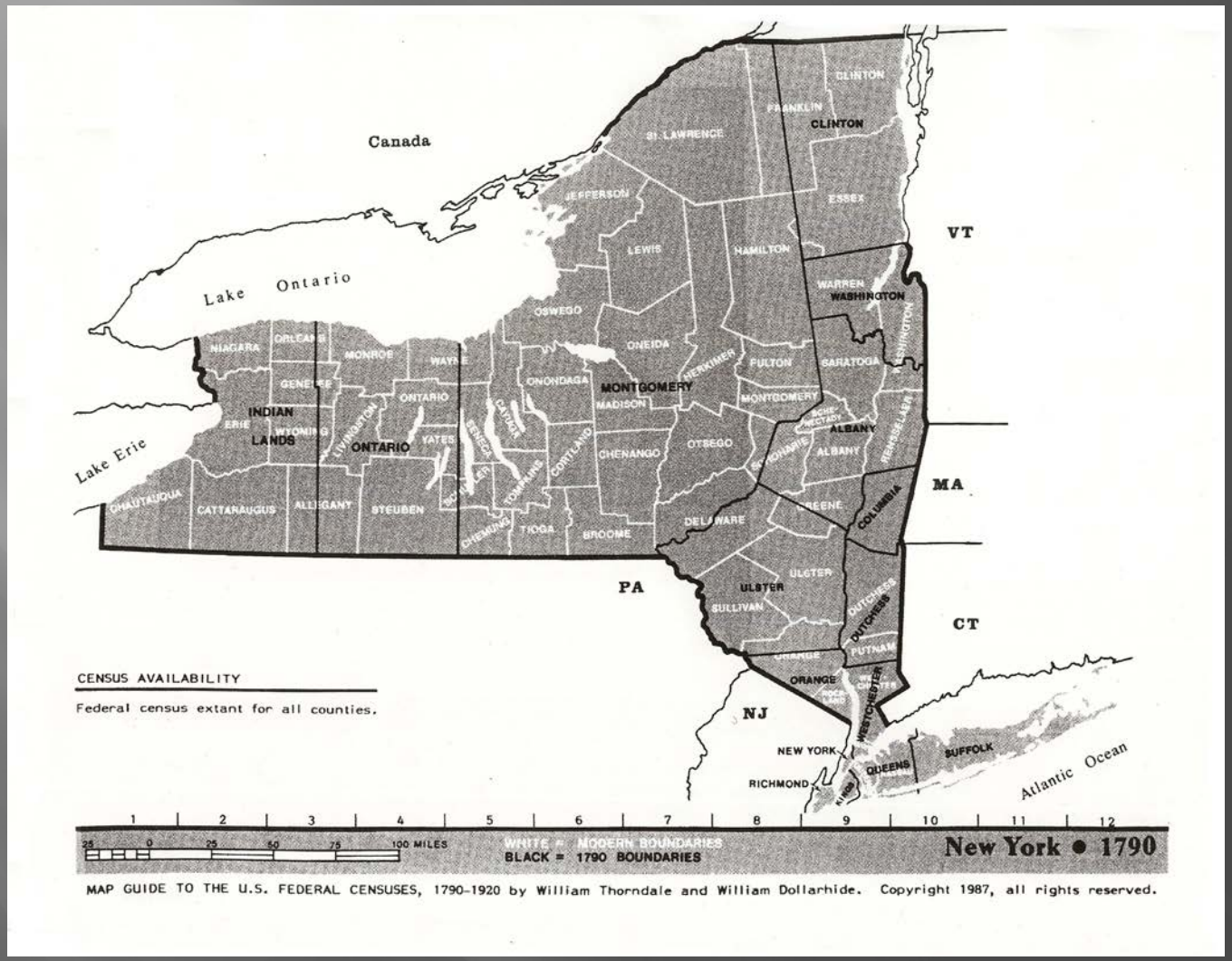
725 Hertel Avenue • Buffalo, NY

ZIP Code 14207

Post Office

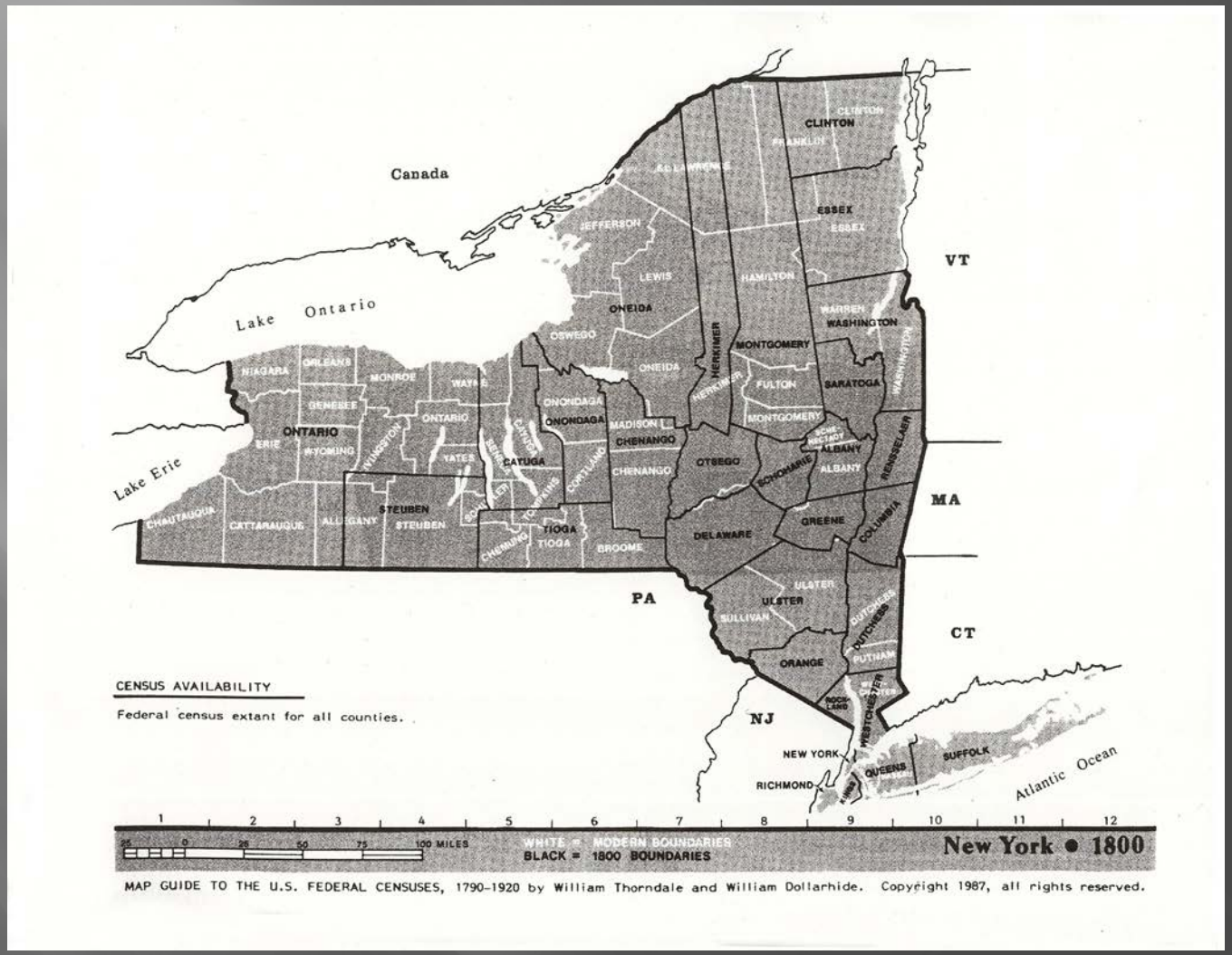
New York Counties

1790 Federal Census



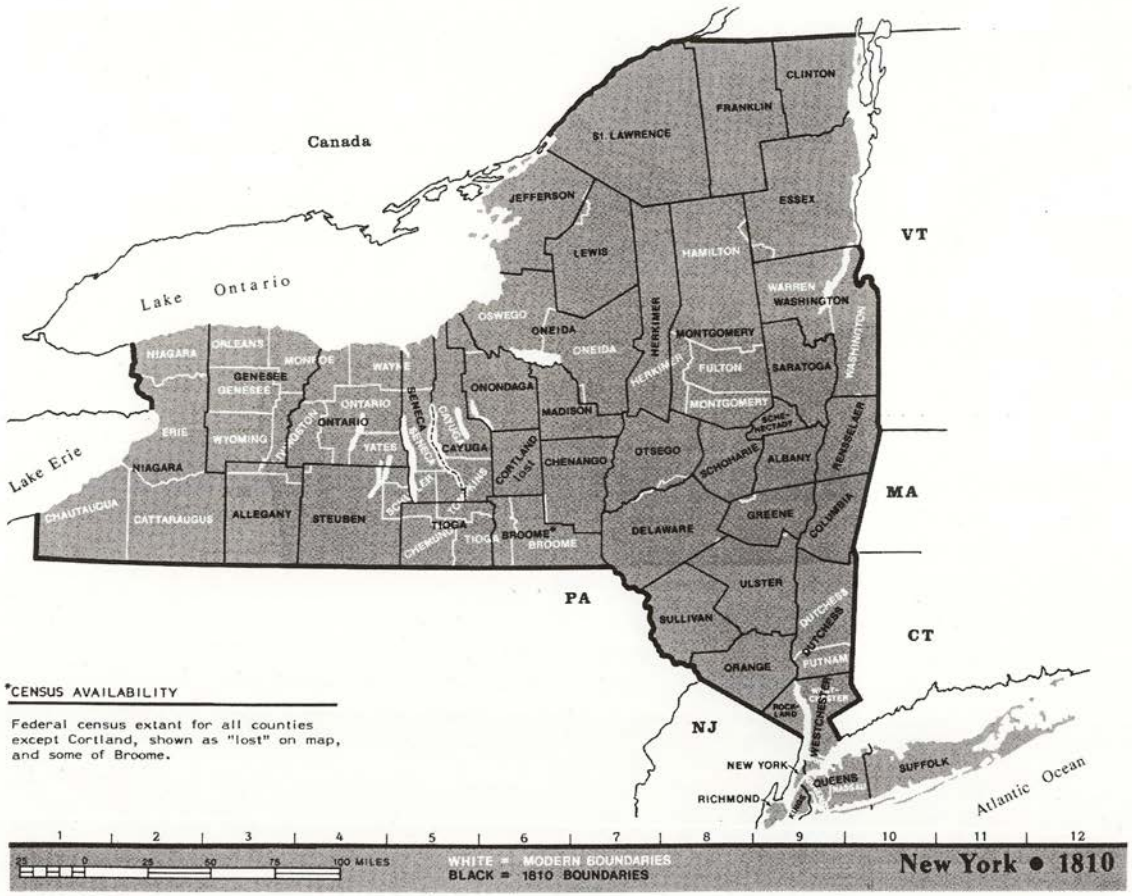
NY County Counties

1800 Federal Census



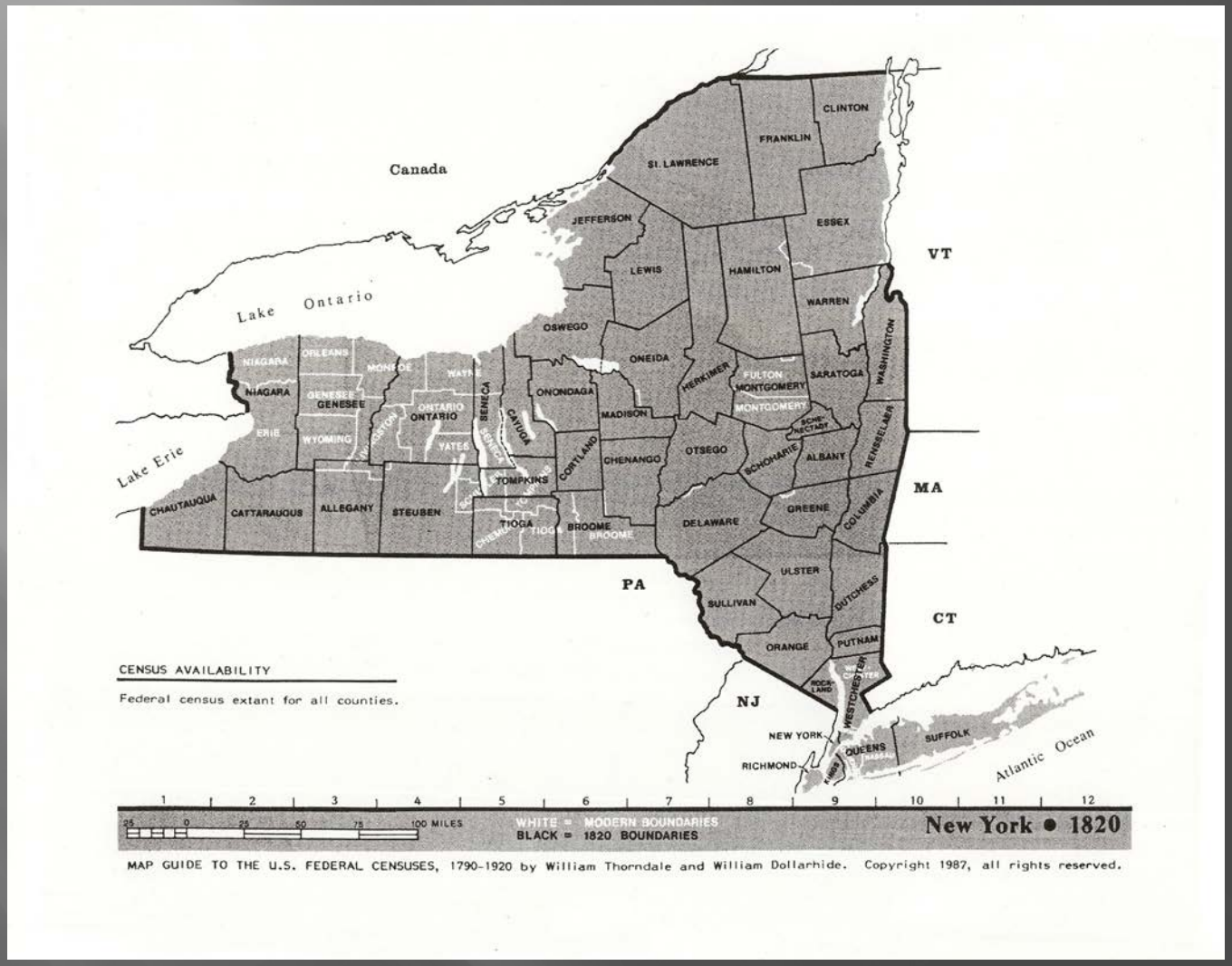
New York Counties

1810 Federal Census

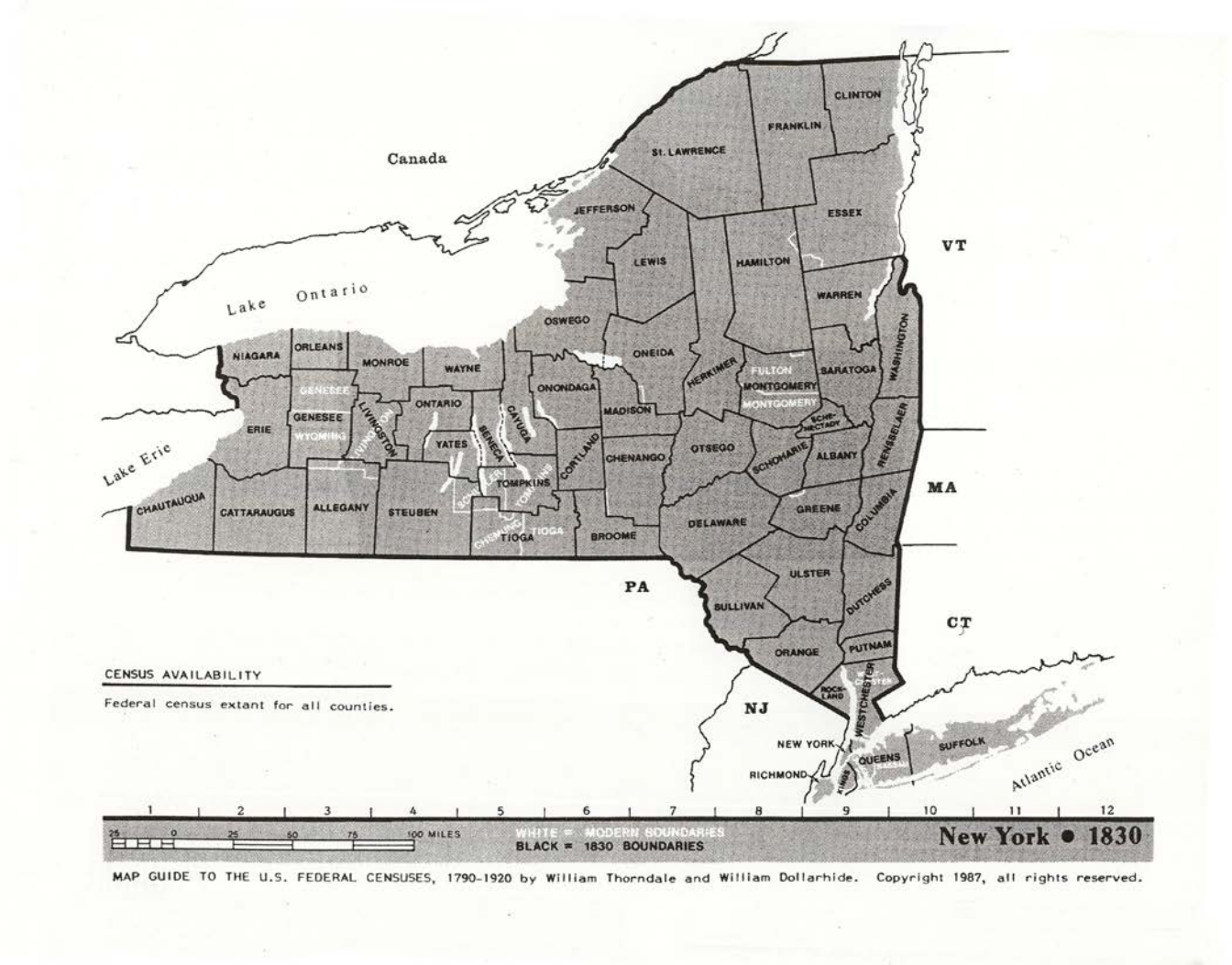


New York Counties

1820 Federal Census

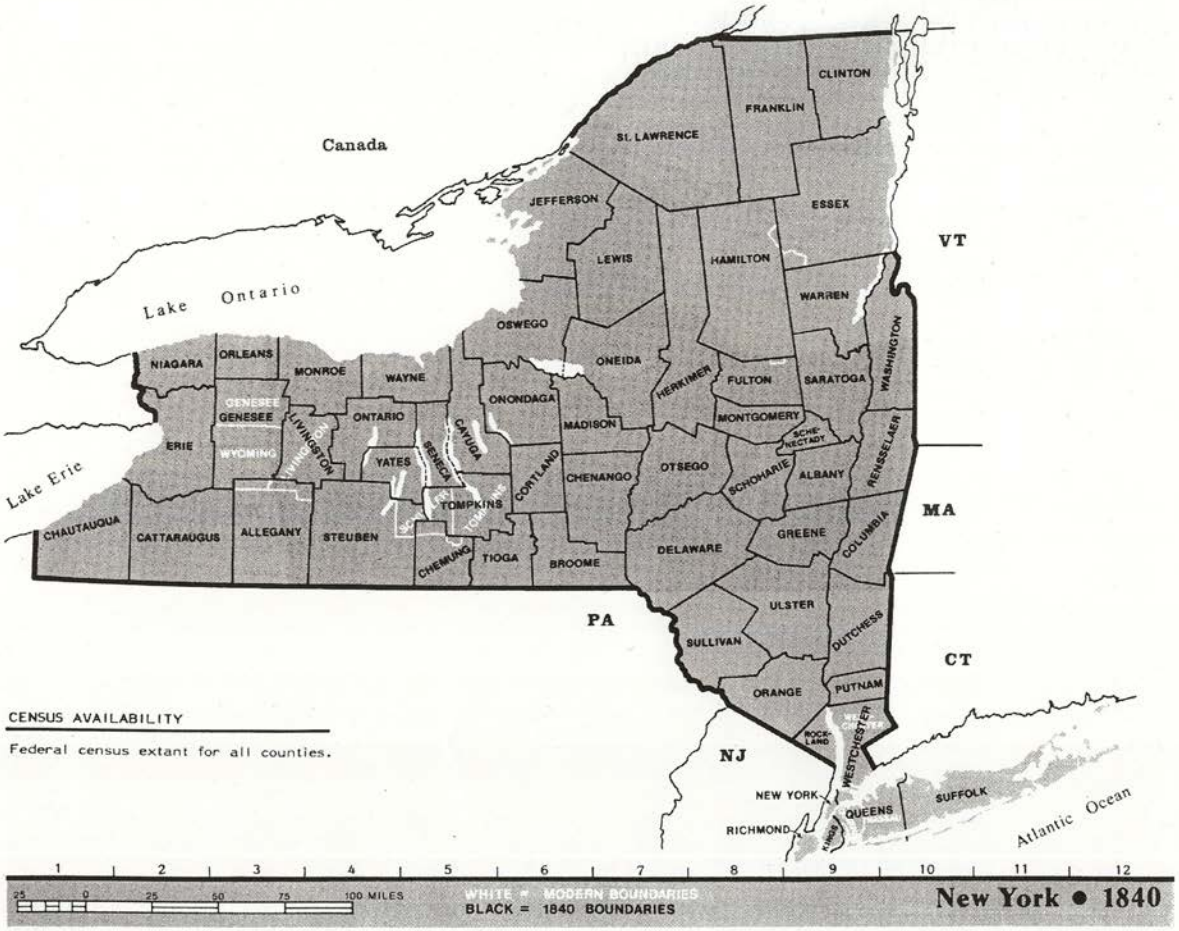


New York Counties
1830 Federal Census

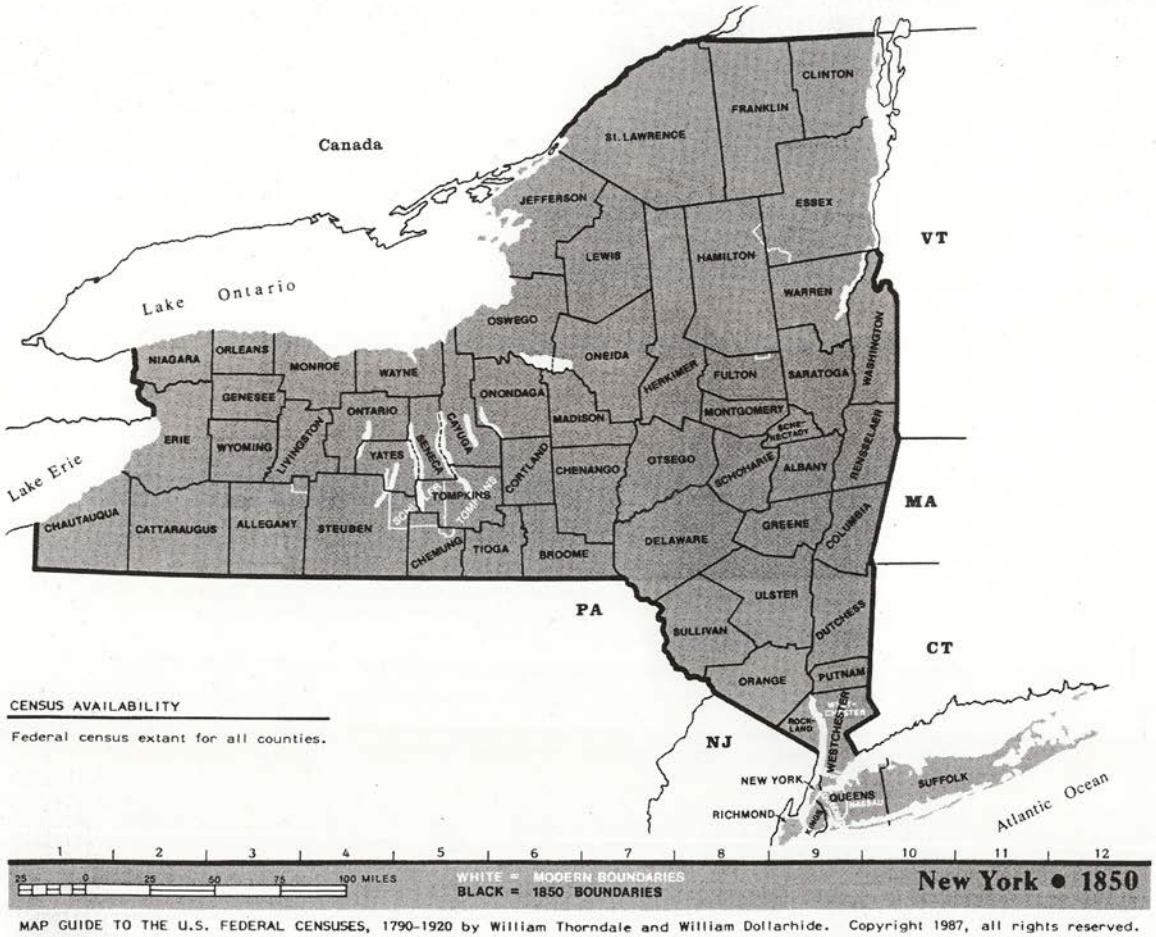


New York Counties

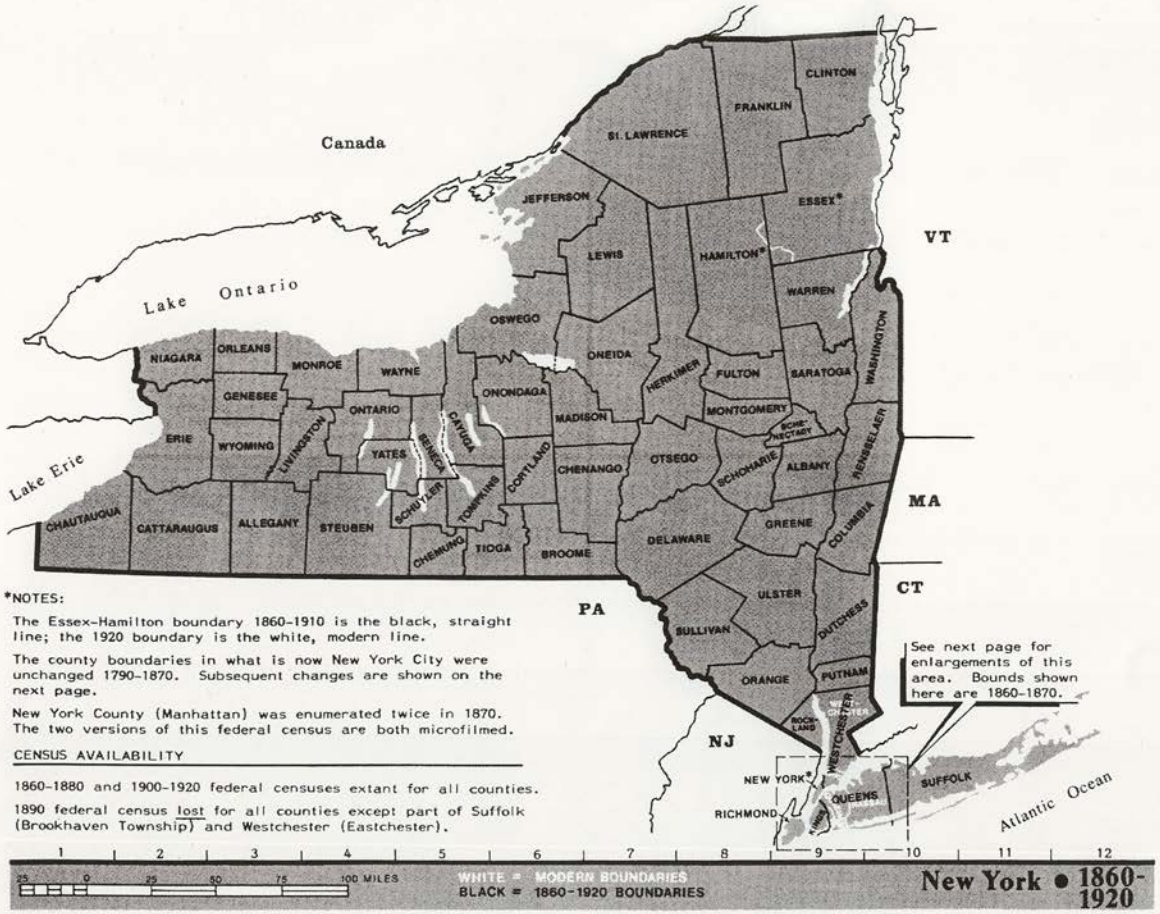
1840 Federal Census



New York Counties
1850 Federal Census

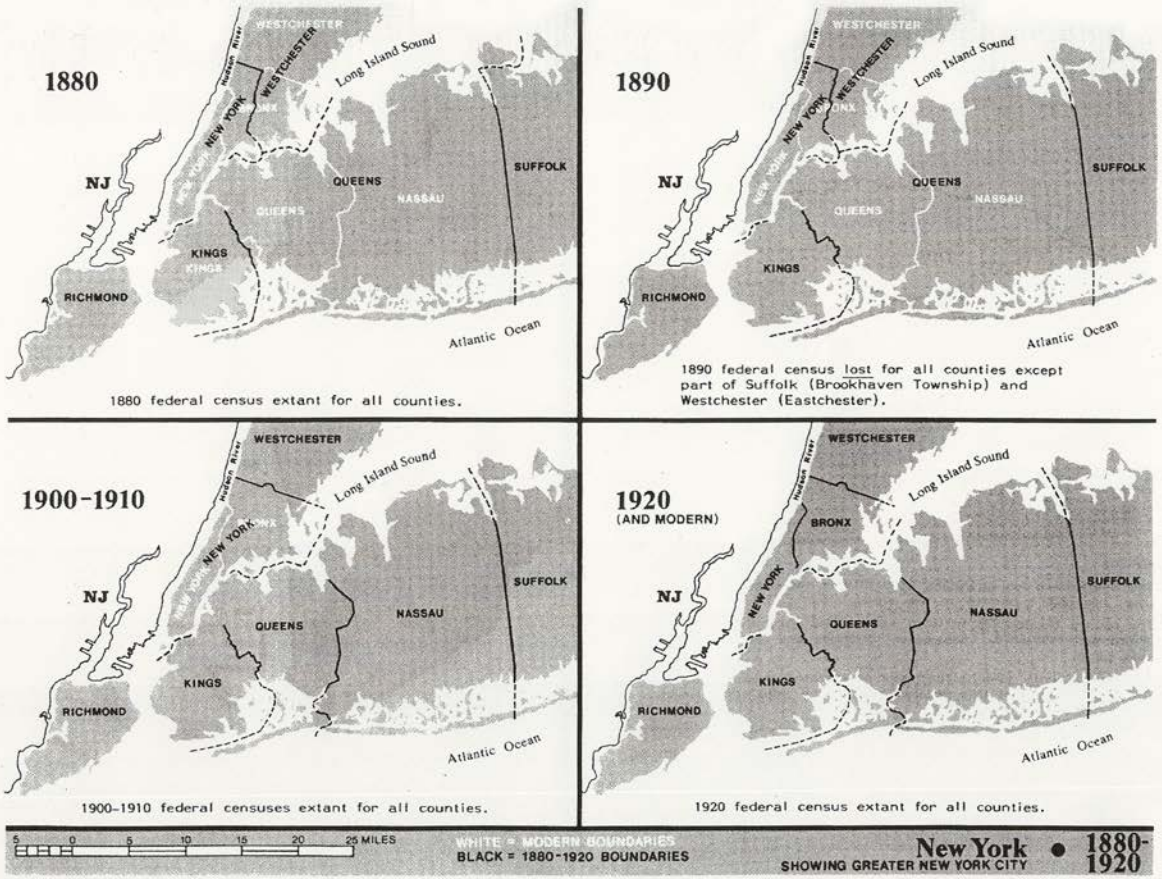


New York Counties
1860 - 1920

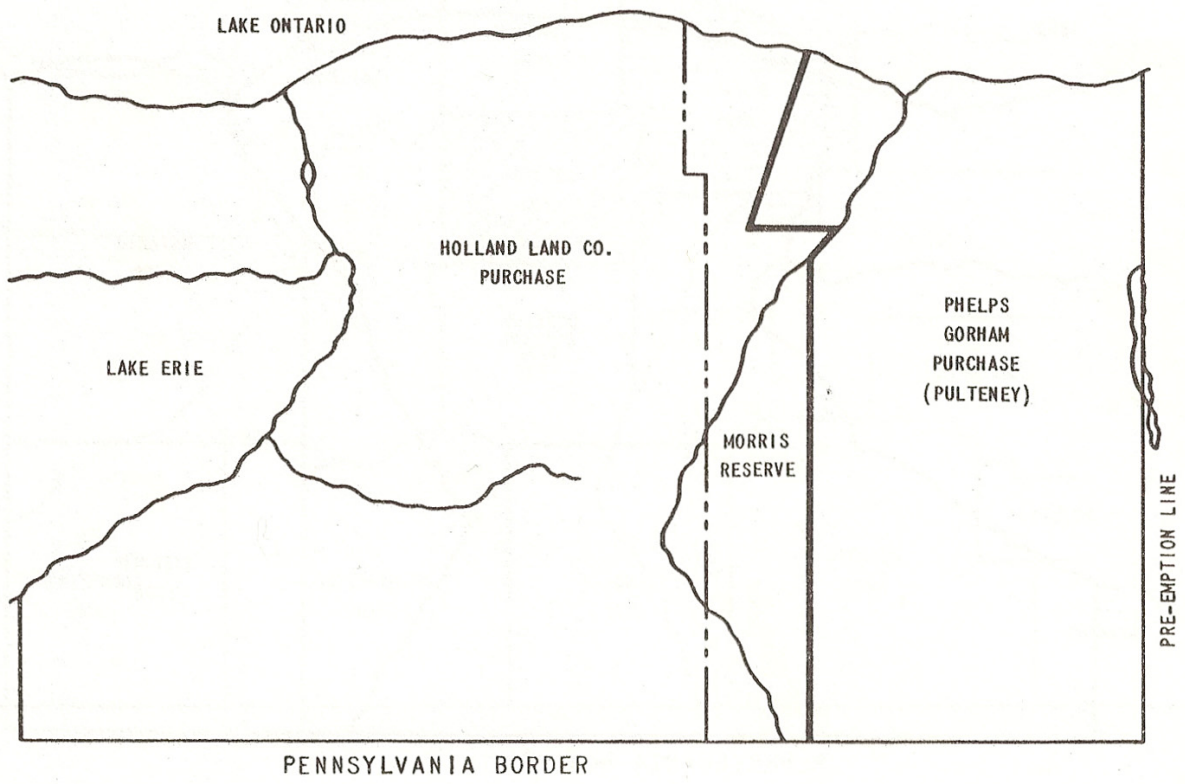


New York Counties

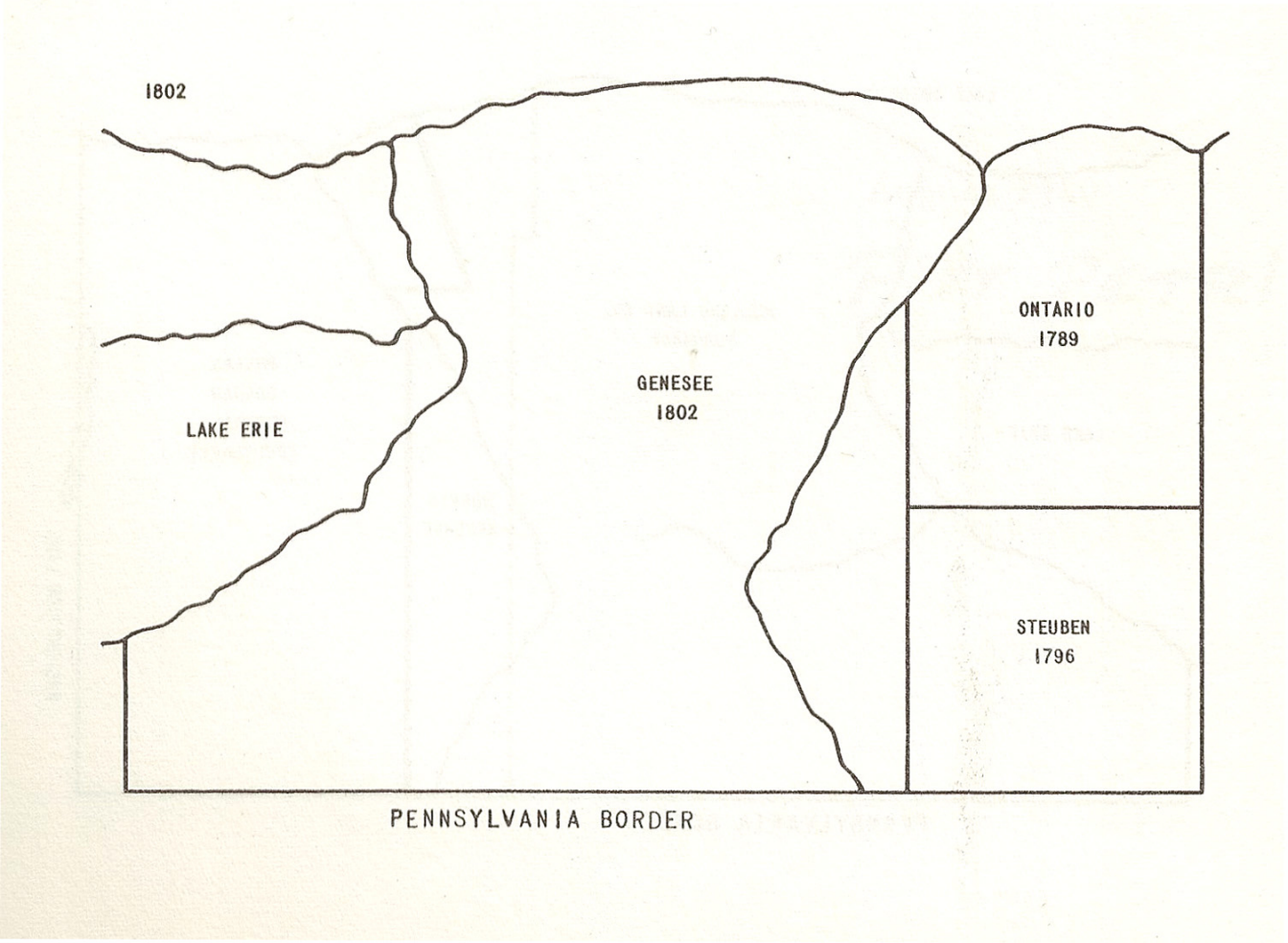
1880 – 1920 New York City Area



Holland Land Company Purchase
1793-1836



Genesee County
March 30,1802

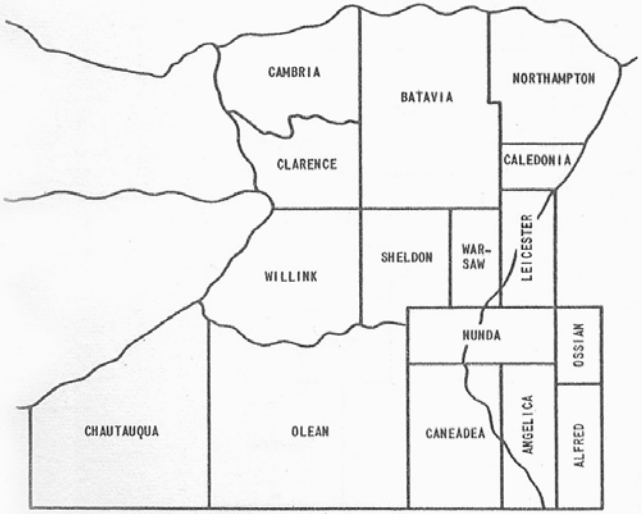


Genesee County Towns

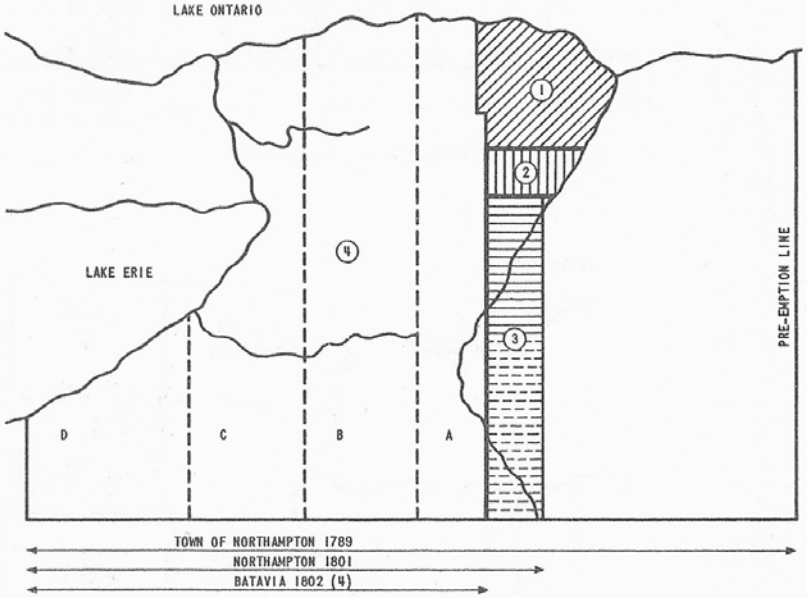
March 3, 1808 – April 6, 1808

1 NORTHAMPTON
2 SOUTHAMPTON
(LATER CALEDONIA)
3 LEICESTER
4 BATAVIA

4A BATAVIA
4B WILLINK
4C ERIE
4D CHAUTAUQUA

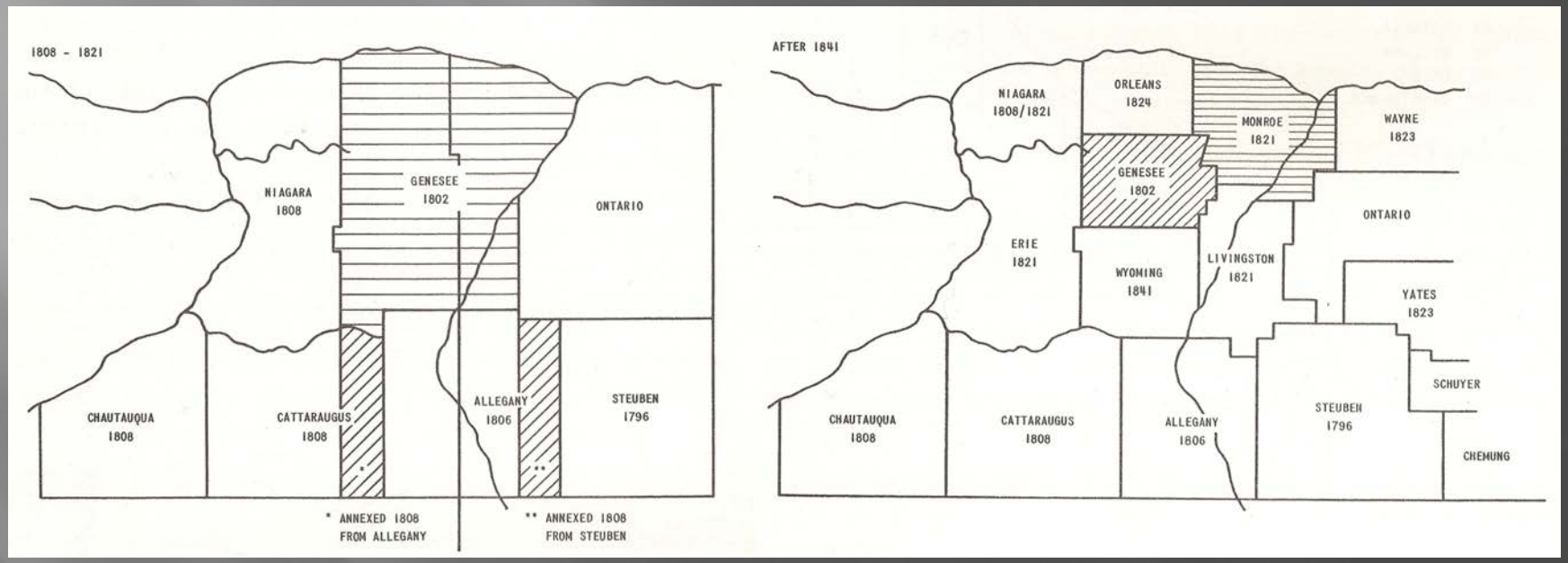


TOWNS AFTER MARCH 3 1808, BEFORE APRIL 6 1808



Western New York Counties

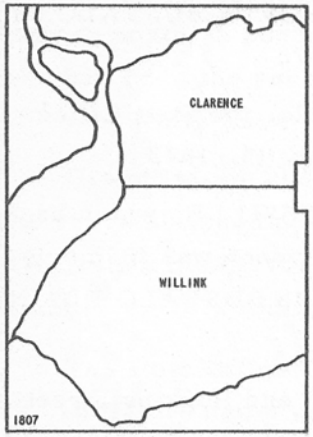
1808 – 1821 & After 1841

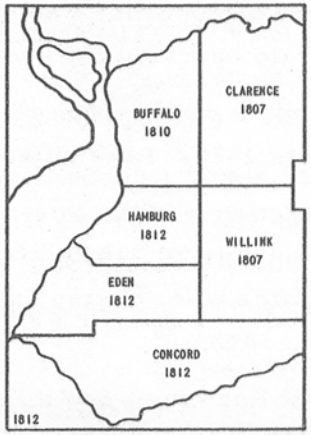


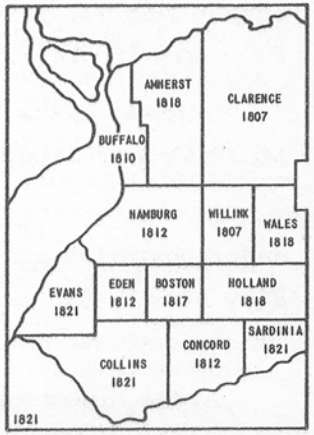
Erie County Towns
Chronology

Clarence created	1807	Hamburg	1812 from Willink
Buffalo	1810 from Clarence	Eden	1812 from Willink
Amherst	1818 from Buffalo	Concord	1812 from Willink
Willink	1807	Wales	1818 from Willink
		Holland	1818 from Willink

Boston	1817 from Eden
Evans	1821 from Eden
Sardinia	1821 from Concord
Collins	1821 from Concord

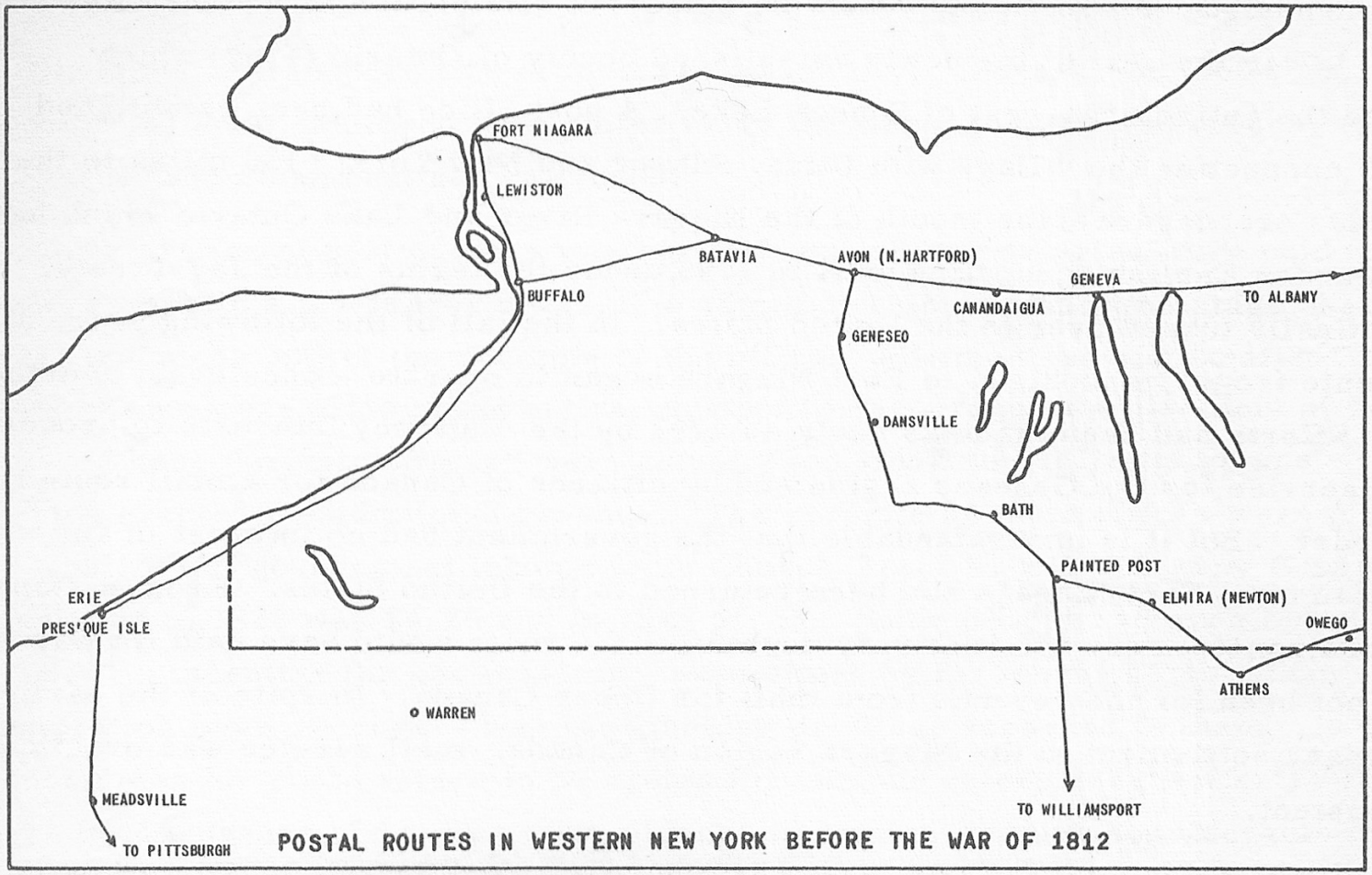






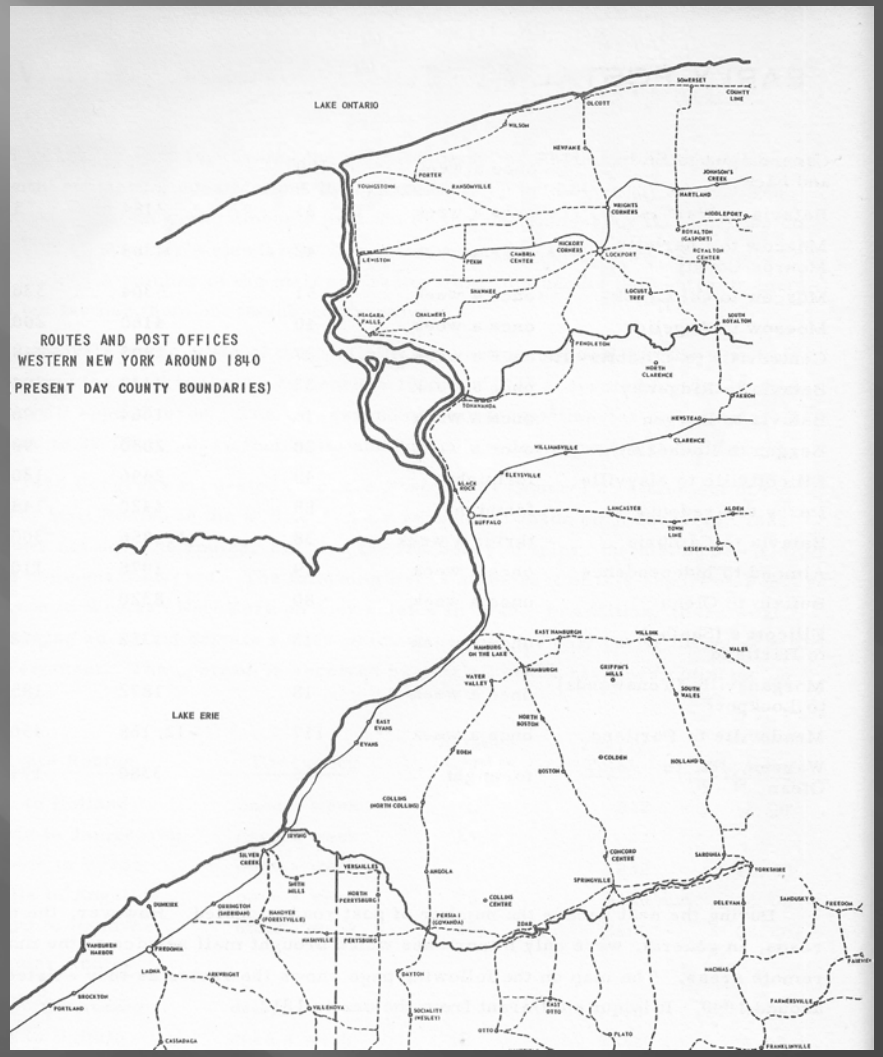
Western NY Postal Routes

Pre-1812



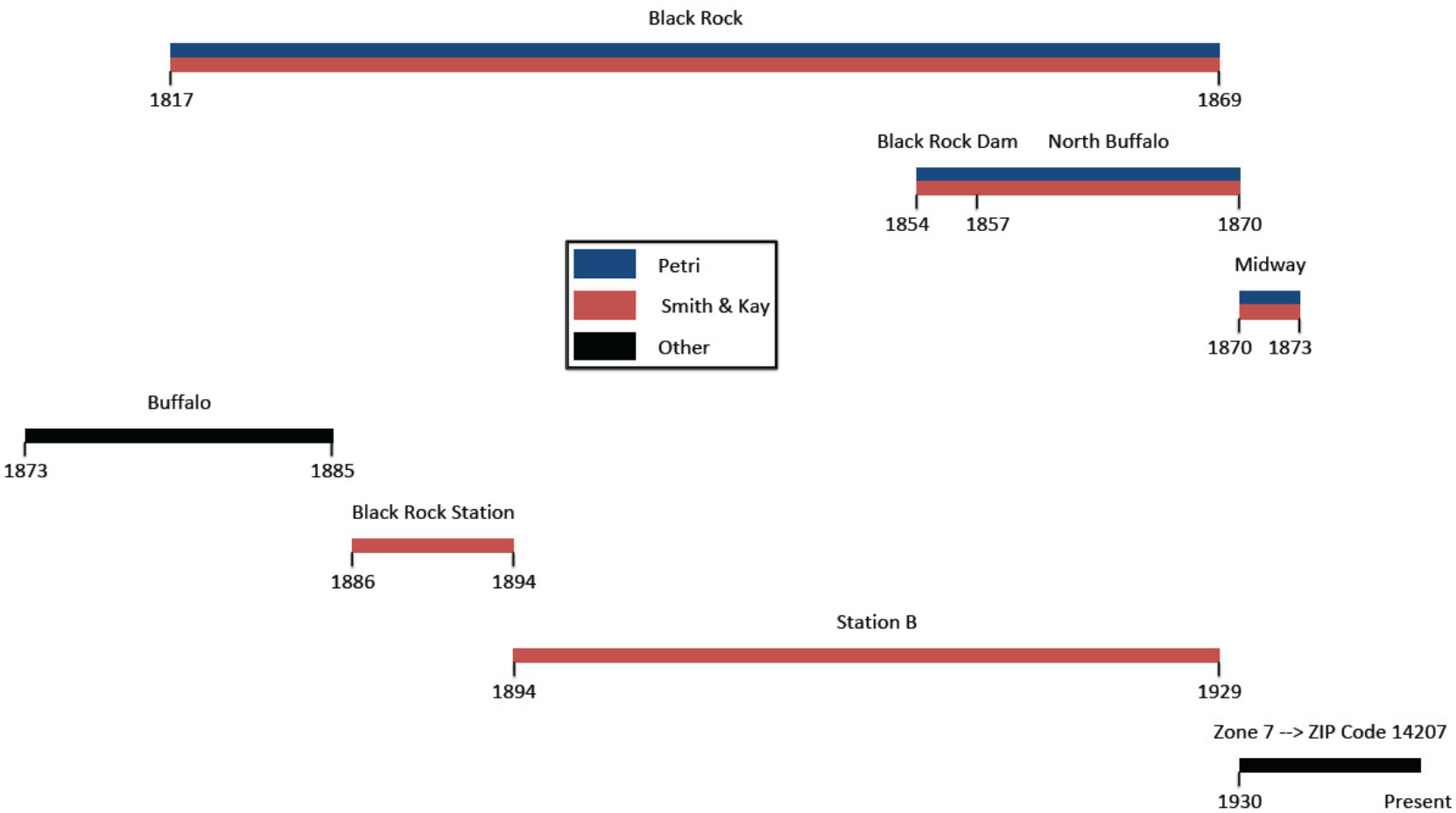
Western NY Routes & Post Offices

~1840



Black Rock Post Office Changes

1817 – Present

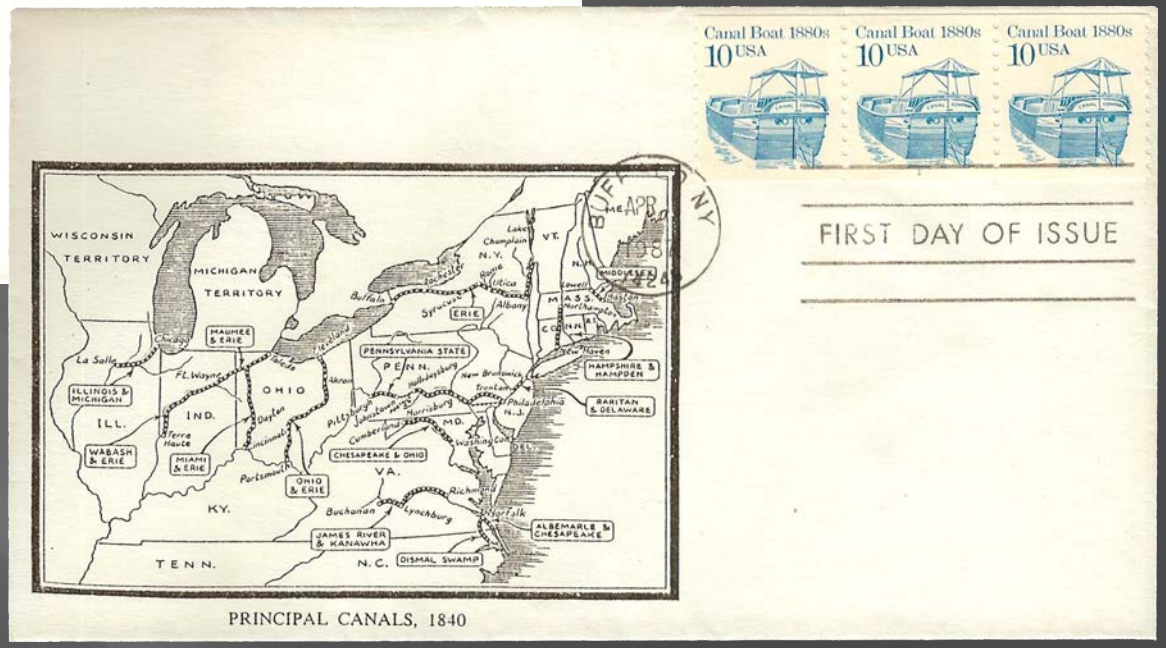


Erie Canal

- Proposed in 1807
- Under Construction from 1817 to 1825
- Western Terminus Awarded to Buffalo in 1822
- Opened October 26, 1825

Erie Canal

October 26, 1825



PRINCIPAL CANALS, 1840

Black Rock

January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

Black Rock

January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

Black Rock

January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

Black Rock

January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

Black Rock

January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

Black Rock Dam
July 12, 1854 – February 10, 1857

- I have no covers…but I have cash… :o)

North Buffalo

February 10, 1857 – March 18, 1870

Midway
April 6, 1870 – July 15, 1873

- Purportedly, North Buffalo became Midway; further research is required to resolve the issue
- But, I have cash if this is true… :o)

Buffalo (Black Rock & Riverside)
July 15, 1873 – September 1886

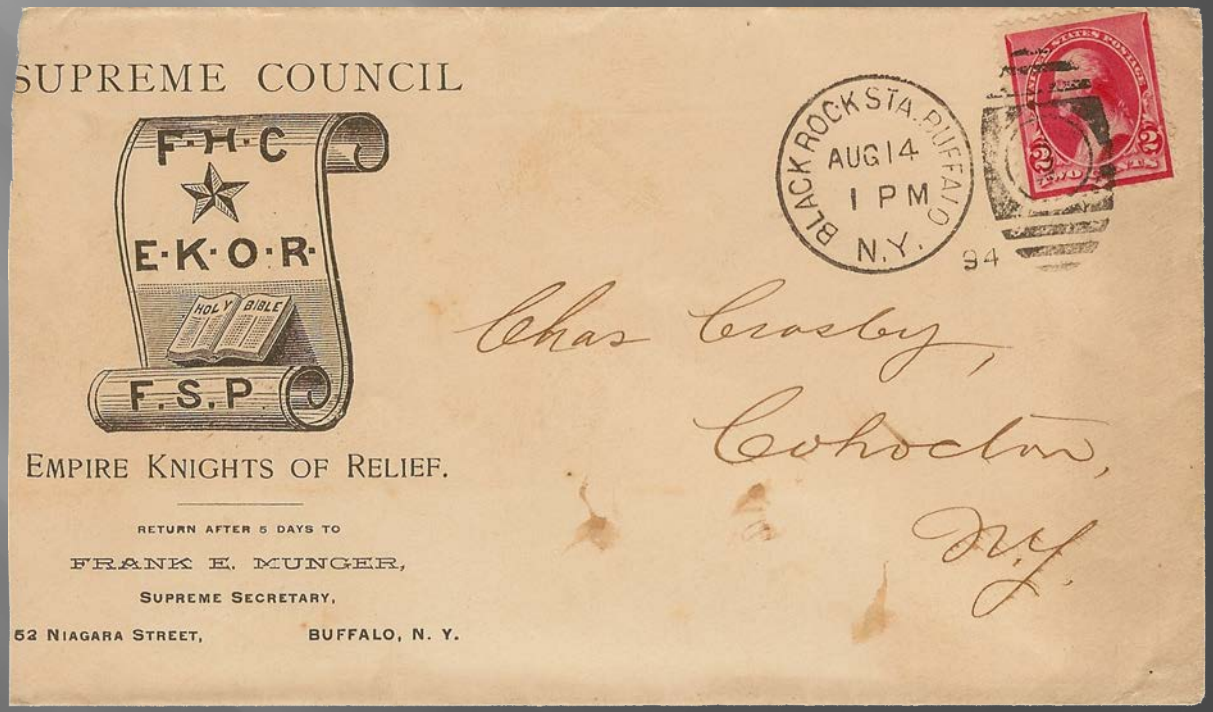
- Apparently there was no post office designated during this period to indicate processing in Black Rock or Riverside.
- Additional research is required to resolve this issue and, if so, acquire covers with Buffalo postmarks that can at least imply processing in the area.

Black Rock Station

September 1886 – December 1894

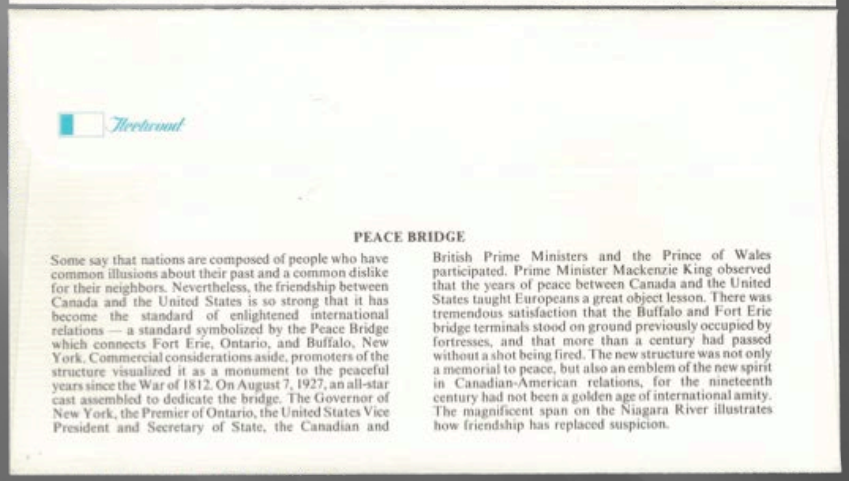
Black Rock Station

September 1886 – December 1894



Station B

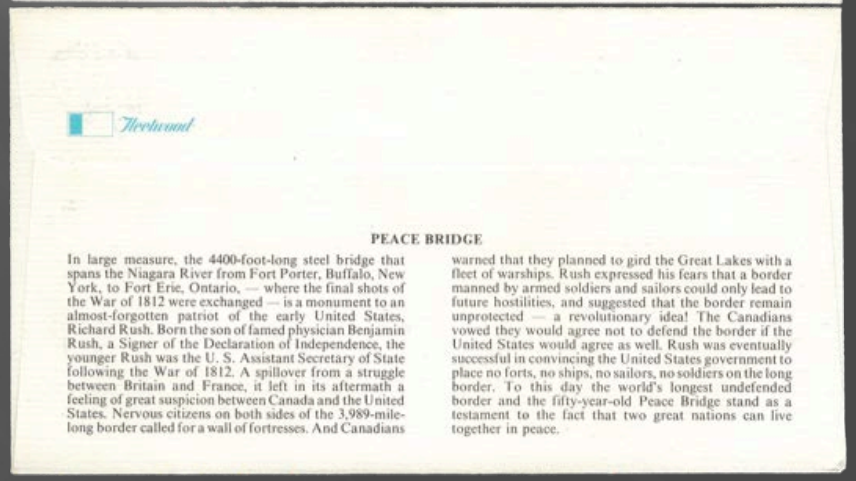
December 1894 – July 1929



Fleetwood

PEACE BRIDGE

Some say that nations are composed of people who have common illusions about their past and a common dislike for their neighbors. Nevertheless, the friendship between Canada and the United States is so strong that it has become the standard of enlightened international relations — a standard symbolized by the Peace Bridge which connects Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York. Commercial considerations aside, promoters of the structure visualized it as a monument to the peaceful years since the War of 1812. On August 7, 1927, an all-star cast assembled to dedicate the bridge. The Governor of New York, the Premier of Ontario, the United States Vice President and Secretary of State, the Canadian and British Prime Ministers and the Prince of Wales participated. Prime Minister Mackenzie King observed that the years of peace between Canada and the United States taught Europeans a great object lesson. There was tremendous satisfaction that the Buffalo and Fort Erie bridge terminals stood on ground previously occupied by fortresses, and that more than a century had passed without a shot being fired. The new structure was not only a memorial to peace, but also an emblem of the new spirit in Canadian-American relations, for the nineteenth century had not been a golden age of international amity. The magnificent span on the Niagara River illustrates how friendship has replaced suspicion.



Fleetwood

PEACE BRIDGE

In large measure, the 4400-foot-long steel bridge that spans the Niagara River from Fort Porter, Buffalo, New York, to Fort Erie, Ontario, — where the final shots of the War of 1812 were exchanged — is a monument to an almost-forgotten patriot of the early United States, Richard Rush. Born the son of famed physician Benjamin Rush, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, the younger Rush was the U. S. Assistant Secretary of State following the War of 1812. A spillover from a struggle between Britain and France, it left in its aftermath a feeling of great suspicion between Canada and the United States. Nervous citizens on both sides of the 3,989-mile-long border called for a wall of fortresses. And Canadians warned that they planned to gird the Great Lakes with a fleet of warships. Rush expressed his fears that a border manned by armed soldiers and sailors could only lead to future hostilities, and suggested that the border remain unprotected — a revolutionary idea! The Canadians vowed they would agree not to defend the border if the United States would agree as well. Rush was eventually successful in convincing the United States government to place no forts, no ships, no sailors, no soldiers on the long border. To this day the world's longest undefended border and the fifty-year-old Peace Bridge stand as a testament to the fact that two great nations can live together in peace.

Station B

December 1894 – July 1929

Station B

December 1894 – July 1929

Station B

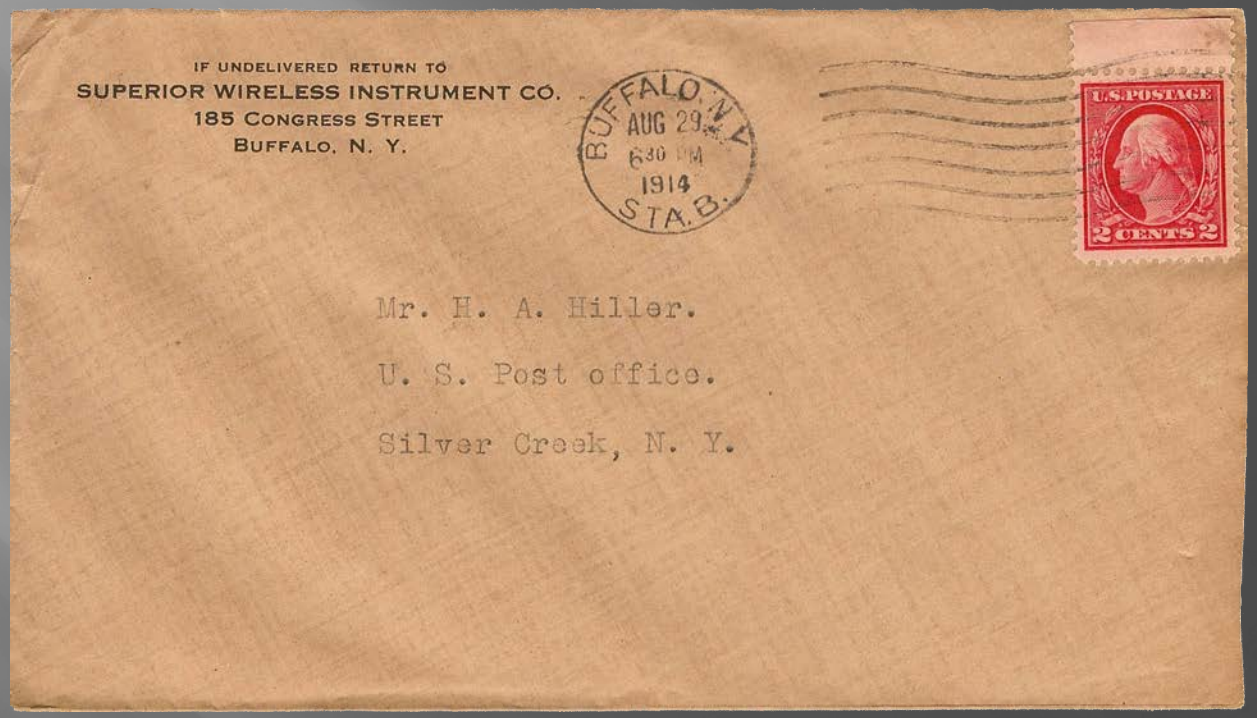
December 1894 – July 1929

Station B

December 1894 – July 1929

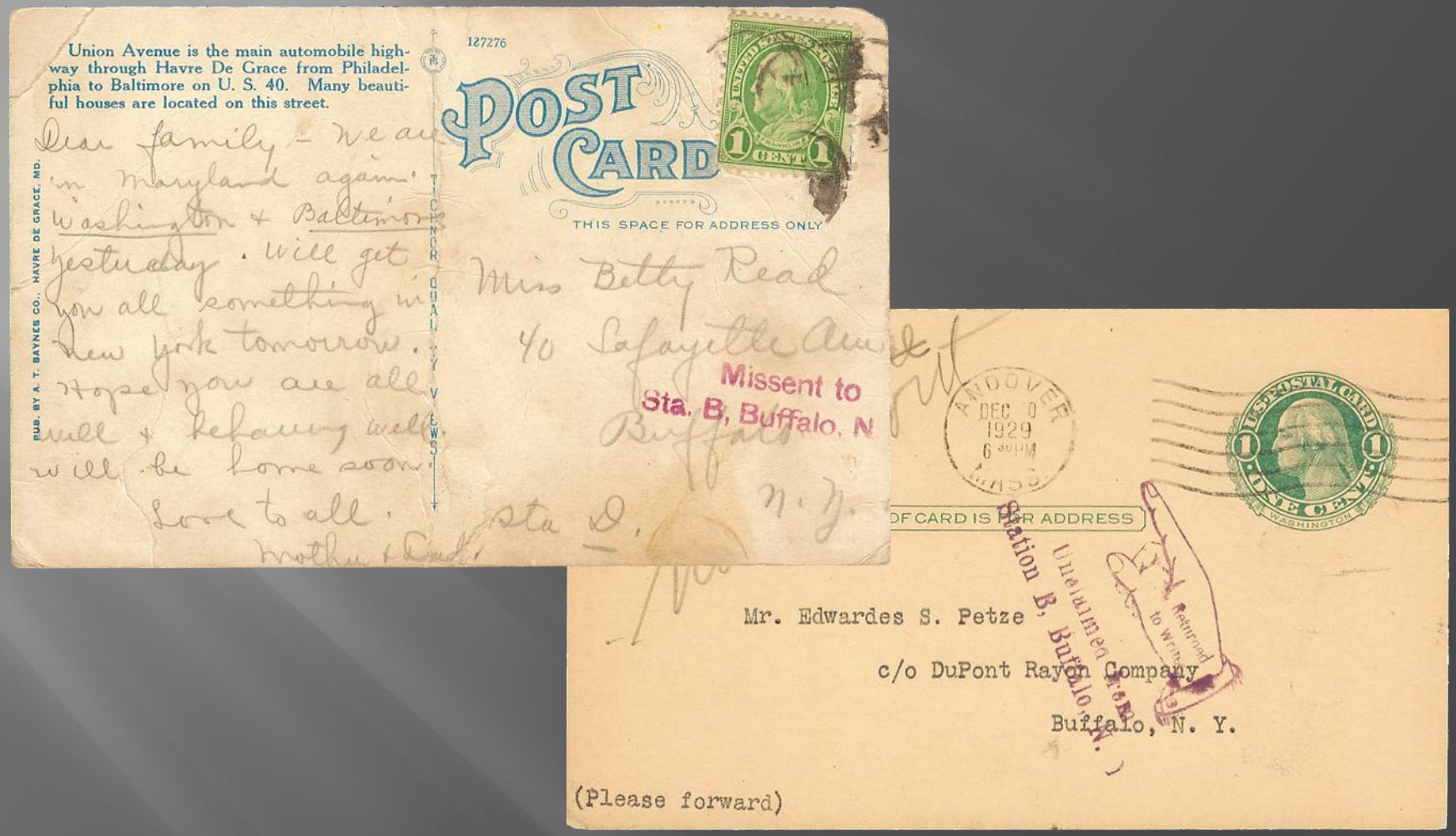
Station B

December 1894 – July 1929



Station B

December 1894 – July 1929



Station B

December 1894 – July 1929

Zone 7

July 1929 – July 1, 1963

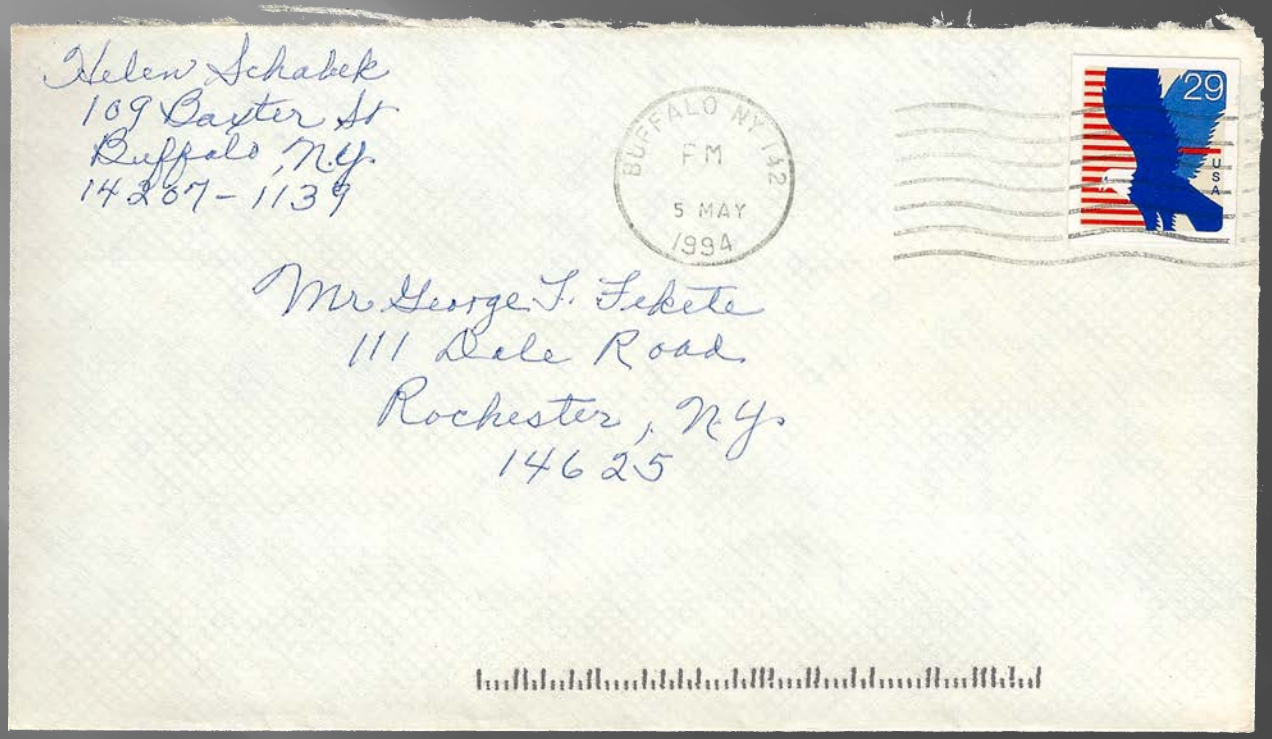
Note: Station B cancellations appeared in Zone 7 after it was formally established on July 1, 1963.

Zone 7

July 1929 – July 1, 1963

ZIP Code 14207

1963 – Today



ZIP Code 14207 Philately

POLKAPEX – Northwest Ordinance Of 1787

ZIP Code 14207 Philately

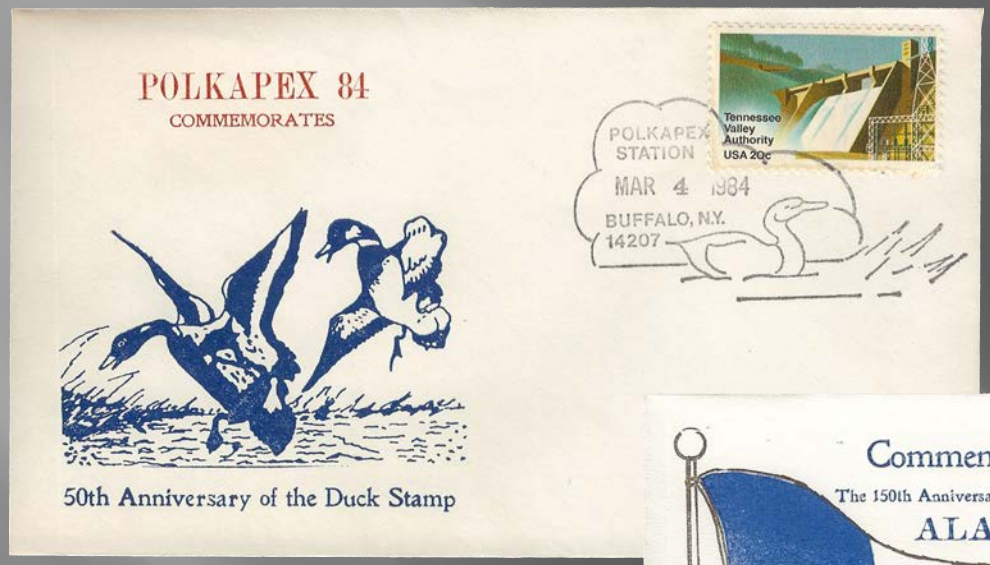
POLKAPEX – Northwest Ordinance Of 1787

ZIP Code 14207 Philately

POLKAPEX – Northwest Ordinance Of 1787

ZIP Code 14207 Philately

POLKAPEX – Duck Stamp & Alamo



Key References

1. Petri, P. (1960). *The Postal History of Western New York, Its Post Offices, Its Postmasters*. Self-published [I believe].
2. Kay, J. L. and Smith, C. M. (1982). *New York Postal History: The Post Offices and Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*. American Philatelic Society.